

STAGE III NATIONAL STUDENTS OLYMPIAD IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
Listening Comprehension Test for 8th Form Students

In over 200 countries, children are calling for adults to take action and stop ruining the planet's future. Listen up, grown-ups around the world: You've failed us. That is the message millions of young people from Sydney to Warsaw to London and beyond carried to the streets in September 2019, as they skipped school to stage strikes demanding urgent action on climate change.

The strike is the third this year and involved more than 3,000 protests, according to the group that organized them. The strike in New York, where 1.1 million students were excused from school, happened before a pair of climate meetings at the United Nations.

The New York protest was led by Greta Thunberg, the 16-year-old Swedish high school student who has become the face of the fast-growing youth movement that has taken hold in more than 200 countries. Her message to world leaders is blunt and to the point: Listen to the science.

"We are united behind the science and will stop at nothing to keep this crisis from getting worse," Thunberg said from the stage in Battery Park at the south end of Manhattan as the crowd chanted, "Greta, Greta, Greta." She not only condemned political leaders for their "empty promises, lies and inaction," she scolded supportive adults for taking selfies with her and her fellow activists and telling them "how much they admire what we do." That is not why the crowds came to the streets, she added. "We are doing this to wake up the leaders," she said. "We deserve a safe future. Is that too much to ask?"

Task 1. Mark if the sentences are true or false.

1. Children are striking in over 200 countries.
2. Children are striking on Saturdays so that they don't miss school.
3. Not many young people are concerned about climate change.
4. The strike is the third strike this year.
5. More than 3,000 protests were involved in the strike.
6. Greta Thunberg is from Germany,
7. Greta Thunberg's message is "Listen to our leaders."
8. Only children take selfies at the strikes.
9. Greta Thunberg thinks the world leaders are not doing enough to stop climate change.
10. People at the climate strike were chanting Greta's name.

Task 2. Choose the correct answer.

1. Which city was NOT mentioned in the text?
 - a. Sydney
 - b. London
 - c. Berlin
 - d. New York
2. When did the third strike take place?
 - a. Summer
 - b. Winter
 - c. Autumn/Fall
 - d. Spring
3. Greta Thunberg...
 - a. Condemns political leaders for their inaction and lies
 - b. Supports the actions by the United Nations
 - c. Is studying climate change at university
 - d. Enjoys taking selfies with supportive adults
4. Greta Thunberg says we need to listen to...
 - a. Our parents
 - b. Science
 - c. World leaders
 - d. The United Nations
5. People attend the strike, because...
 - a. They don't want to go to school.
 - b. The schools told them to.
 - c. The United Nations told them to.
 - d. They want to wake up the world leaders about climate change.

STAGE III NATIONAL STUDENTS OLYMPIAD IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
Listening Comprehension Test for 9th Form Students

The Legend of Beddgelert

Beddgelert is a small village in Snowdonia, the national park which contains the highest mountain in Wales. The name Beddgelert derives from two parts: Bedd which means grave, and Gelert which is the name of a famous dog in Welsh legend. Now, listen carefully as I tell you this legend. Back in the 13th century, Llewellyn the great lived with his wife Joan, the daughter of the King of England. When they first married Joan bought Llewellyn a magnificent dog as a wedding gift, one which protected the couple from the wolves which lived near their stone palace. The dog was a great, strong hunter, and Llewellyn grew extremely attached to his brave, loyal companion, naming him Gelert.

One day Llewellyn blew on his horn to summon his hunting dogs, but Gelert did not come. Therefore the master went hunting without him, a little disappointed that his best dog wasn't there. When Llewellyn returned, however, he was greeted by Gelert who was covered in blood, especially around his mouth. The master suddenly panicked and immediately went looking for his baby son but couldn't find him anywhere. Indeed all he could see was the baby's bed, empty and blood all around. Llewellyn was furious with Gelert for having killed his son, and in a great rage he killed Gelert with his sword. As Gelert cried out, the baby son responded with a cry of his own. He wasn't dead. Llewellyn ran to the baby and found a dead wolf next to his bed. Gelert hadn't killed the baby, he had saved the baby from a hungry wolf, suffering terrible injuries whilst doing so. Llewellyn was distraught. He had killed his loyal dog, the dog who had saved the life of his son. He picked Gelert up and took him outside, where he buried him with great honor. Legend has it that Llewellyn never smiled again. To this day you can see Gelert's grave in the village, and thousands of tourists visit every year.

STAGE III NATIONAL STUDENTS OLYMPIAD IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
Listening Comprehension Test for 9th Form Students

Task 1. Decide whether the statements are true or false.

1. The name of the town means Gelert's grave.
2. The King of England bought Gelert as a present for his daughter.
3. Llewellyn wanted to go hunting without his dog, Gelert.
4. A wolf attacked Llewellyn's baby.
5. Gelert killed the baby by accident.
6. Beddgelert is a village in Snowdonia.
7. Gelert protected the couple from wolves.
8. Gelert was bad at hunting.
9. Llewellyn bought a new dog after Gelert.
10. Thousands of tourists visit Gelert's grave every year.

Task 2. Choose the best answer.

1. The town of Beddgelert is near
 - a. the highest mountain in England
 - b. the largest national park in Wales
 - c. Snowdonia
 - d. the highest mountain in Wales
2. Gelert was supposed to
 - a. protect the family from the English.
 - b. protect the baby from wolves.
 - c. protect the family from wolves.
 - d. protect the baby from bears.
3. Llewellyn went hunting without Gelert because
 - a. Gelert didn't come when he blew his horn.
 - b. he was angry with Gelert for hurting his baby.
 - c. he was sad that his baby son was dead.
 - d. Gelert was covered with blood.
4. Llewellyn came home and found
 - a. his baby was dead.
 - b. Gelert was covered in blood.
 - c. his dog Gelert was dead.
 - d. his wife, Joan, dead.
5. Llewellyn buried
 - a. his wife.
 - b. a huge wolf.
 - c. his baby son.

d. his dog.

STAGE II NATIONAL STUDENTS OLYMPIAD IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Writing

10th Form

1. Your friend, after reading a series of books and watching a series of videos on leadership, feels inspired and wants your help to become a leader. How does one become a leader? Is it possible to “learn” to be a leader by reading about it, or is experience necessary for leadership? Do you think leaders start out wanting to become a leader or simply find themselves in leadership situations?

1. Virtual reality can take us to places and events that would be impossible to experience in our day to day lives. However, as technology advances, some are afraid that people will end up living their entire lives in a virtual sphere. What are the most significant pros and cons of virtual reality? Should people be able to live out their entire lives in a virtual world if they want to? If you had the option to live out your wildest dreams in a virtual reality, do you think you’d be able to refuse?

2. The head of the Ministry of Education is asking students to write how they would reform the Ukrainian school system. Write a letter describing the problems that Ukrainian schools go through, and what sort of reforms and laws you would implement to solve them. Write using your own experience as an Ukrainian student and what you know about the changes the nation is undergoing for education.

STAGE III NATIONAL STUDENTS OLYMPIAD IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
Listening Comprehension Test for 10th Form Students

Many British people take their holidays in August. Our politicians are on holiday, so there is no political news. Our business and finance people are on holiday too, so there is not much business or financial news. And, worst of all, TV people and minor members of the royal family are on holiday too, so there is no news about [celebrities](#) to keep us happy. Newspaper reporters still have to find stories to fill the newspapers, however, and in August they find some strange things to tell us about. For example, in the past week we have all been entertained by the strange story of the cat in the wheelie bin. There is a YouTube video on the Listen to English website, which will show you what happened. In the video, we see a street. There are a few cars parked in the street, but there are no people anywhere. Perhaps they are all on holiday. In the foreground, there is a green object with a lid. It is a rubbish bin. Many British people have bins like this to put their domestic rubbish in. The bins have wheels on the bottom, so that it is easy to move them. We generally call them “wheelie bins”.

So, this is a video about an empty street with three parked cars and a wheelie bin. It is just about the most boring video ever. Then a woman appears. She walks along the pavement past the wheelie bin. A cat jumps up on the wall beside her. The woman stops to stroke the cat, and to scratch it behind the ears, which cats love. Then she looks up and down the street. Perhaps she is looking to see if anyone else is around. Then she opens the lid of the wheelie bin, picks up the cat, puts the cat in the wheelie bin, and walks away. And the street is empty again, apart from the parked cars and the wheelie bin.

The cat stayed in the wheelie bin for 15 hours before its owners rescued it. They wondered who had put it there. They had a [security camera](#) outside their house, and when they checked the recording, they found what you have just seen on the video. They told the newspapers and the TV what had happened, and for a few days we could read and watch all about the strange case of the cat in the wheelie bin.

People reacted to the video in one of two ways. Some people were outraged. How could someone do such a cruel thing to a little cat? Other people thought that it was one of the funniest things they had ever seen. Yes, alright, it was not good to put the cat in the wheelie bin, but it was also very funny. And we all wondered, why did the woman do this? Was she mad? Did she have a [grudge](#) against cats? Did she plan to put a cat in a wheelie bin that morning, or was it something she did [on the spur of the moment](#)?

Within hours of the video appearing on the internet, people telephoned the police to say that they knew who the woman was. A crowd of cat-loving people gathered outside her house, and the police had to come to tell them to go away. The woman says that she does not really know why she put the cat in the wheelie bin. It just seemed like a good idea at the time. And that is all the news from Listen to English. You always knew that the English were mad.

STAGE III NATIONAL STUDENTS OLYMPIAD IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
Listening Comprehension Test for 10th Form Students

Task 1. Choose if the statements are True or False.

1. There is a lot of news during the summer holidays.
2. There is a yellow bin to put trash in on the street.
3. An elderly man put the cat in the bin.
4. People didn't care the cat was in the bin.
5. The owners called their friends to laugh about the cat in the bin.
6. The video of the cat in the bin became very popular.
7. The trash bins are called "wheelie bins" because they have wheels on the bottom.
8. Someone walking on the street recorded the video.
9. Nobody knew who the woman was.
10. The woman has put cats in wheelie bins before.

Task 2. Choose the correct answer.

1. Newspaper reporters
 - a. don't have to report in summer because of the break.
 - b. like to report about TV celebrities in the summer.
 - c. have to be creative and find interesting stories to cover in the summer.
 - d. go on break with celebrities in the summer.
2. Trash bins in the street are sometimes called "wheelie bins" because:
 - a. they are green.
 - b. they look like a wheel.
 - c. they have wheels under them.
 - d. people think it's a funny name.
3. When the video begins
 - a. there are people having a party in the street
 - b. there is a fight going on
 - c. there are two people sitting in a room drinking coffee
 - d. there is a empty street with parked cars but no people.
4. The owner's of the cat
 - a. never found the cat.
 - b. knew who had put the cat in the bin.
 - c. watched a video to see who had put the cat in the bin.
 - d. thought the cat had jumped into the bin.
5. The woman said
 - a. that she never put the cat in the bin.
 - b. that she liked putting cats in the bin.
 - c. that she wasn't sure why she put the cat in the bin.
 - d. that the cat ask to be put in the bin.

STAGE II NATIONAL STUDENTS OLYMPIAD IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Writing

11th Form

1. Smart phones have a huge impact on almost everyone's day to day life, and can be an outlet to avoid ever being bored. What are your thoughts on boredom? Are there positive effects that come from boredom? Do you think it's sometimes important to be bored, or should we try to avoid boredom at all costs?
2. "Fail Videos" are extremely popular online. Here, people can share a laugh at the expense of others. Why do you think other people's pain is sometimes funny? Should we feel bad about enjoying videos like these, even if we have no relation to the people in the video? Where is the line drawn from comedy and tragedy?
3. While helping other people is a trait that has been valued for thousands of years, some people think that only privileged individuals have the means and ability to truly be generous. Do you think morality requires a price tag? Should people's morals be judged differently depending on how much money they have? What does being moral mean to you?

STAGE III NATIONAL STUDENTS OLYMPIAD IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
Listening Comprehension Test for 11th Form Students

Once upon a time, in a land far, far way....no, hang on a minute, that's no good. All stories start like that. How about we have something different for this story. Mmm, I know: Very, very recently, in a place that is close to where I live, something strange and fascinating happened. It is a tale of mystery, that has changed our village forever. It all started on a warm Spring Sunday. It was a glorious, lazy afternoon. Church was over, and people were relaxing on their porches and in their gardens; children were running around playing, and the sound of birds chirping filled the air. It was approaching three o'clock. The bell tower of the local church overlooked the whole village, and when the hour was chimed, the sound would ring out in a clear and familiar way. Today, however, it was different. At first, the bells rang rhythmically, normally; nobody really took any notice as the sound was so well known and expected. But, suddenly, there was a huge crashing of metal, like the bells were being thrown together. High notes and low notes were screaming in a violent, angry chaos. It went on and on.

Everybody looked up, stood up, and turned their heads towards the church on the hill. What on earth was going on? Who was up in the bell tower? Was this some kind of joke? A couple of men ran up the hill to see what was happening, but the angry noise continued until they were almost at the church door, when suddenly it stopped. Running out of the church, with a crazed look on her face, came Mrs Brompton, the church bell ringer and cleaner.

"Help!" she cried, her face pale, and her hair sticking up in all directions. "Ooo, it's horrible! Just horrible!" she yelled, grabbing the beard of one of the men, and shaking his head, as if to make him understand. "Ow!" exclaimed Mr. Meads, prying her hands off of his beard, "Now, Mrs Brompton, what on earth is going on? What's happened?" At those words, Mrs Brompton went very quiet, she wanted to speak but she couldn't. She grabbed Mr. Mead's beard again with one hand and tried to say something. "....a curse!" came out in a whisper, and, at that, her eyes rolled to the back of her head and she fainted, falling to the ground like lead.

After the ambulance took Mrs Brompton, the vicar and a group of men searched the church, every room, every nook, every staircase. They found nothing unusual. Even in the bell tower, nothing was out of place. The huge, metal bells hung silently, expressionless, but something about the room felt different. The group of men had assembled here again. Having found no clues at all, they automatically came back to the room where the chaos had started. They stood silently thinking. "Oh, Mrs Brompton's off her rocker, I'd say," said Jeffrey Mullins with a wave of his hand. But his humor wasn't reflected in the other faces. The vicar, Reverend Holtworth, had a particularly serious expression; his face was grey, and his eyes were heavy with thoughts. "It'll be nothing to worry about, I'm sure, vicar," said Thomas Black. "I bet Betsy just had a funny turn and got tangled up in the ropes." But Rev. Holtworth said nothing in response.

The sun was low in the sky as they left the church. The men headed down the path back

to the village. Thomas Black stayed behind to talk to the vicar. Standing there, they could hear Jeffrey Mullins, "The old bat has given everybody something to talk about, hasn't she?" he said with a loud laugh, and the others joined in. Black and the vicar stood in silence for a few moments. "I'm sure when we hear from Betsy it'll all turn out to be nothing," Black said as if asking a question. The vicar said nothing in response, but gave Black a weak smile and a quick nod, as if to reassure him. "If you need anything, you know my number," called out Black as he headed down the path. The sun was setting now, and the birds had fallen silent. Rev. Holtworth stood staring at the bell tower, and uttered under his breath, "There was nobody in the bell tower this afternoon."

STAGE III NATIONAL STUDENTS OLYMPIAD IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Listening Comprehension Test for 11th Form Students

Task1. Choose whether the statements is True or False

1. The narrator likes the structure of old fairy tales.
2. This story is not very significant to the narrator.
3. This is a story about a big city.
4. A bell ringing is the first major event of the story.
5. Mrs. Brompton is the church secretary.
6. Mr. Mead didn't have a beard.
7. Mrs. Brompton didn't scare anyone with her reaction.
8. The vicar laughed at Mrs. Brompton's statement.
9. The story starts on a warm Spring Sunday.
10. Mrs. Brompton believes in curses.

Task2. Choose the best answer.

1. The bells at the church
 - a. were the most beautiful part of the village.
 - b. always chimed in rhythm.
 - c. chimed differently when Mrs. Brompton rang them.
 - d. didn't chime on the day of the story.
2. The first people up the hill were
 - a. 3 boys that had been playing by the church.
 - b. 2 men that had run up the hill.
 - c. 2 vicars that worked at the church.
 - d. Mr. Black and the vicar.
3. Mrs. Brompton was
 - a. laughing when she came out of the church.
 - b. screaming for help when she exited.
 - c. very excited by all the noise in the church
 - d. asleep when the church bells rang.
4. When the men checked the bell tower
 - a. There was a man in the tower.
 - b. There was a bird in the tower.
 - c. The bells were still ringing.
 - d. The bells were silent but there was different about the room.
5. A vicar is a
 - a. Judge
 - b. Secretary
 - c. Fireman
 - d. Priest

STAGE I DISTRICT STUDENTS OLYMPIAD IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Reading Comprehension Test for 8th Form Students

Text 1: BOYS AND GIRLS

Boys tend to play outside, in large groups that are structured. Their groups have a leader who tells others what to do and how to do it, and resists doing what other boys propose. It is by giving orders that high status is negotiated. Another way boys achieve status is to take center stage by telling stories and jokes, and by challenging the stories and jokes of others. Boys' games have winners and losers and elaborate systems of rules that are frequently the subjects of arguments. Finally, boys are frequently heard to boast about their skills, likes and possessions, and argue about who is best at what. Girls, on the other hand, play in small groups or pairs. The center of a girl's social life is her best friend. Within the group, intimacy is key: differentiation is measured by relative closeness. In their most frequent games, such as jump rope and hopscotch, everyone gets a turn. Many of their activities (such as playing with dolls) do not have winners or losers. Although some girls are certainly more skilled than others, girls are expected not to boast about it, or show that they think they are better than the others. Girls don't give orders: they express their preferences as suggestions, and suggestions are likely to be accepted.

Task one: Chose the multiple-choice item that makes the sentence correct.

1. According to the text:

- A. Boy groups are simple systems of order.
- B. Boys need a leader.
- C. Girls do not value friendship.
- D. Girls need a leader.

2. Boys tend to argue:

- A. When they choose their leader.
- B. When they see girls.
- C. When they play games.
- D. When they share their toys.

3. To boast means:

- A. To have a physical confrontation
- B. To verbally disagree

- C. To brag
- D. To play

4. According to the text:

- A. Girl groups are large, complex systems of order
- B. Girl groups are competitive.
- C. Boy groups are non-competitive
- D. Girl groups are diplomatic.

5. The most important thing for girls is:

- A. Playing games
- B. Fighting with boys
- C. Relationships
- D. Avoiding making decision

Text 2: Skiing

Skiing is one of the most popular sports in the world. According to recent estimates, about one hundred million people ski regularly or occasionally. Sliding across the snow on skis is also one of the most ancient methods of transport known to man. It has been demonstrated that men were already travelling across the snow by means of primitive skis before the invention of the wheel. In the Asiatic region of Altai and in Scandinavia, for example, the remains of skis have been found which date back to 4,000 BC. Further evidence is supplied by ancient cave paintings which depict people skiing, and a Norwegian saga which tells the story of an invasion of its territory 8,000 years ago by a tribe of skiers who came from the north. Nowadays, skiing, apart from being a sport, has become a big industry and a notable feature of leisure culture. Ski resorts and all the activity that they generate are the main source of wealth in many mountain regions, which were previously remote and inaccessible. And far from its once elitist image, skiing is now enjoyed by an increasingly broader spectrum of society.

Task two: Choose the multiple-choice item that makes the sentence correct.

6. Skiing:

- A. Is a complex form of travel
- B. Predates the wheel

- C. Is for the rich only
- D. Attracts few people to its industry

7. The following is evidence of skiing in the past:

- A. Ancient battle songs
- B. Cave paintings showing skiers
- C. Frozen skiers found in blocks of ice in the mountains
- D. Books that tell stories of ancient ski tribes

8. From the text, we can assume that:

- A. There are ski resorts in places that were once hard to travel to.
- B. Only a certain spectrum of society skis.
- C. Skiing is a small industry
- D. Skiing is not a modern sport

9. According to the text, skiing had an “elitist image” because:

- A. Poor people skied often.
- B. Skiing is difficult.
- C. Skiing was an ancient sport.
- D. Only specific groups of people skied.

10. All are true except:

- A. Skis and wheels were invented at around the same time
- B. Norway was attacked by skiers
- C. Ski resorts are very profitable
- D. Many kinds of people ski today

Text 3: THE CALIFORNIA STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Have you ever tried a strawberry pizza? If you went to Oxnard, the "Strawberry Capital of California," in May, you could! Oxnard is in Southern California and this part of the state takes its strawberries very seriously. At the two-day California Strawberry Festival you can sample strawberries prepared in all sorts of unique ways. In addition to traditional treats such as strawberry shortcake, strawberry jam, strawberry tarts and strawberries dipped in chocolate, there is strawberry pizza! Strawberry kabobs dipped in powdered sugar are another delicacy. Drinks such as a strawberry smoothie can wash it all down. Strawberries are big business in

Oxnard. Oxnard's bountiful 6,600 berry acres bring in annual revenues of \$100 million. Twenty-four companies harvest and cool nearly 16 million trays of berries, which are shipped throughout North America, as well as to Germany and Japan and many other countries. The festival, which attracts more than 85,000 visitors, features three stages with musical entertainment, 335 arts and crafts exhibits, strolling musicians, clowns, artists, face-painting, contests, and a "Strawberryland" for children with puppets, magicians, musicians, and a petting zoo.

Task three: Choose if the sentence is TRUE (T) or FALSE (F).

- 11. **T** **F** Strawberries are eaten worldwide.
- 12. **T** **F** Revenue is how much money people make selling strawberries.
- 13. **T** **F** At the festival, you will certainly see a large elephant.
- 14. **T** **F** There are hundreds of thousands of acres of berries.
- 15. **T** **F** A delicacy is a delicious, rare food dish.

STAGE I DISTRICT STUDENTS OLYMPIAD IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
Reading Comprehension Test for 9th Form Students

Text 1: 4 Ways to Predict the Weather Without an App

Crickets can tell you the temperature

A chorus of chirps at night isn't just lovely atmosphere; it's a musical thermometer, too. Studies have shown that crickets regulate the rhythm of their chirps based on the temperature outside. To convert cricket chirps to degrees Celsius, count the number of chirps in 25 seconds, divide by 3 and then add 4 to get the temperature.

Storm heading your way? Count between the lighting and thunder

Light travels much faster than sound (299,806 *kilometers* per second versus 331.6 *mper* second) and the difference between them can give you a fair measure of distance. As soon as you see a flash of lighting, start counting the seconds until you hear the roar of thunder. Divide the number of seconds by three, and you will know how many kilometers away from you lightning just struck. Try this trick a few times in a row, and you'll know whether a storm is coming or going.

Birds fly higher in fair weather

Most birds possess what is called the Vitali organ, a special middle-ear receptor that senses extremely minute changes in air pressure. As atmospheric pressure falls before a storm, birds fly lower or huddle on telephone wires to escape the sudden pressure in their heads. If you see a flock flying high in the sky, chances are it's nice weather, ahoy.

Halo around the moon? Storm's comin' soon

According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, there is some merit to the old folk saying, "When a halo rings the moon or sun, rain's approaching on the run." A so-called halo forms around the moon when ice crystals from high-altitude cirrus clouds reflect and refract incoming light. These cirrus clouds don't bring rain, but they are a good indication that a low-pressure warm front is a few days away, often with a storm in tow.

Choose the answer that best answers the following questions from the reading above.

1. How can you order the topics of the four paragraphs?
 - a. Insect, Atmospheric, Animal, Astral
 - b. Animal, Astral, Insect, Atmospheric
 - c. Insect, Astral, Animal, Atmospheric
 - d. Animal, Insect, Atmospheric, Astral

2. All these methods are best used for:
 - a. Predicting the weather days in advance
 - b. Discovering the season
 - c. Knowing the weather without using technology
 - d. Finding out if it will rain today
3. Which paragraphs describe techniques that can be used to predict what kind of weather is approaching?
 - a. 1st
 - b. 2nd and 3rd
 - c. 3rd and 4th
 - d. 2nd, 3rd and 4th
4. Which statement is **not** true about the last method?
 - a. It is the clouds that you are seeing that will produce the rain
 - b. It is the clouds that produce ice crystals for the halo, not the moon
 - c. Storms can be preceded by low-pressure warm fronts
 - d. The old folk saying is not only a myth
5. The last technique would work best under which astral conditions?
 - a. Quarter Moon
 - b. Half Moon
 - c. Full Moon
 - d. No Moon

Text 2: Excerpt from: How Teddy Roosevelt Invented Starbucks, and 4 More Surprising Legacies From U.S. Presidents

Thomas Jefferson

Term: 1801–1809

Unlikely Legacy: Paleontology

A true Renaissance man, Jefferson pursued scholarly interests both famous (authoring the Declaration of Independence) and overlooked (rebuilding the burned-down Library of Congress with more than 6,400 books from his own collection). But what was Jefferson's oddest hobby? Bone collecting!

In the early 1800s, paleontology was as rough around the edges as America was. Jefferson, for one, believed it impossible that any species could go extinct. So in 1804, he funded the Lewis

and Clark expedition in partial hopes that they would track down a herd of live woolly mammoths alleged to roam the Mississippi River Valley.

The mammoths weren't there, but their bones were. This was incentive enough for Jefferson to finance Clark on an 1807 follow-up mission to Kentucky with the express purpose of collecting fossils. The trip turned up more than 300 bone samples, which Jefferson gleefully spread out across several rooms of the White House for study. Rarities, like the mammoth skull, he kept for America; duplicates, he mailed to France.

Ultimately, Jefferson's nerdy hobby helped legitimize paleontology in America, even though many critics jokingly called the president "Mr. Mammoth". He gifted at least 50 mastodon bones to the American Philosophical Society and was key in identifying a giant, extinct sloth never before seen in America. It was later named *MegalonyxJeffersonii*.

Choose the answer that best answers the following questions from the reading above.

6. The phrase 'in the early 1800s, paleontology was as rough around the edges as America was' implies what?
 - a. America was very civilized
 - b. America was not very refined
 - c. America was full of bones
 - d. America was not practical
7. By calling Jefferson a "Renaissance man" the article means that:
 - a. He had many diverse interests
 - b. He spoke Italian and French
 - c. He was interested in Renaissance art
 - d. He had lots of books
8. What statement demonstrates that President Jefferson's hobbies were not always well received?
 - a. He had a sloth named after him
 - b. He mailed duplicate bones to France
 - c. His nickname "Mr. Mammoth"
 - d. He funded an excursion by Lewis and Clark
9. According to the article, what was President Jefferson's most well-known achievement?
 - a. Discovering wooly mammoths
 - b. Writing the Declaration of Independence
 - c. Collecting bones

- d. His donations to the American Philosophical Society
10. Why couldn't Lewis and Clark find the live woolly mammoths?
- a. They were all extinct
 - b. They did not go to Kentucky first
 - c. President Jefferson sent them all to France
 - d. They found the sloth instead

Text 3: We Can Survive Without Makeup in Space?

Out of the hundreds of men who have explored the cosmos, Russia has sent only four women into space in more than 50 years of interstellar travel. Now, in a move toward gender equality—on and off Earth—the Russian space agency is running experiments for an all-female crew. But the push for equality took a turn as members of the media began asking the group how they'd handle time away from men and what they'd do without cosmetics. “We are doing work,” said cosmonaut Anna Kussmaul. “When you're doing work, you don't think about men and women.” Kussmaul is just one of the six female cosmonauts, ages 22 to 34, who climbed into a mock spaceship recently. The eight-day simulated trip is designed to study how women cope physically and psychologically in outer space.

“We consider the future of space belongs equally to men and women, and unfortunately we need to catch up a bit after a period when unfortunately, there haven't been too many women in space,” Sergei Ponomarev said, the project's director.

But despite Ponomarev's commitment, other officials were concerned; Igor Ushakov, the director of the institute, worried about fighting. “I'd like to wish you a lack of conflicts, even though they say that in one kitchen, two housewives find it hard to live together,” said Ushakov said. The women participating in the experiment are esteemed researchers and doctors. The experiment will mirror a trip to the moon planned for 2029, with the women conducting a variety of experiments during the voyage.

Women are an underrepresented minority across math and science careers globally, and those who do work in these fields often have their qualifications questioned based on gender. That gender bias also comes in the form of hiring discrimination and salary discrepancies. A 2012 study from Yale University found that male applicants for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) jobs were viewed as more qualified than women, even if they had identical résumés.

The group of Russian cosmonauts handled the questions with ease, assuring the group that gender would have no impact on their ability to perform. As for not being able to take a

proper shower or wear cosmetics, that's not a problem either. "We are very beautiful without makeup," said participant Darya Komissarova.

Choose if the sentence is TRUE (T) or FALSE (F).

- 11. **T** **F** Russia has sent as many women into space as they have men.
- 12. **T** **F** Women are discriminated against based on their gender during the hiring process.
- 13. **T** **F** The women cosmonauts handled the reporters' questions easily.
- 14. **T** **F** This article demonstrates that women should not be cosmonauts.
- 15. **T** **F** The testing that Russia is doing with their all-female team will be put into effect immediately.

STAGE II DISTRICT STUDENTS OLYMPIAD IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Reading Comprehension Test for 10th Form Students

Text 1: From *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens

My mind grew very uneasy on the subject of the pale young gentleman. The more I thought of the fight, and recalled the pale young gentleman on his back in various stages of puffy and incrimsoned countenance, the more certain it appeared that something would be done to me. I felt that the pale young gentleman's blood was on my head, and that the Law would avenge it. Without having any definite idea of the penalties I had incurred, it was clear to me that village boys could not go stalking about the country, ravaging the houses of gentlefolks and pitching into the studious youth of England, without laying themselves open to severe punishment. For some days, I even kept close at home, and looked out at the kitchen door with the greatest caution and trepidation before going on an errand, lest the officers of the County Jail should pounce upon me. The pale young gentleman's nose had stained my trousers, and I tried to wash out that evidence of my guilt in the dead of night. I had cut my knuckles against the pale young gentleman's teeth, and I twisted my imagination into a thousand tangles, as I devised incredible ways of accounting for that damnatory circumstance when I should be haled before the Judges.

Choose the answer that best answers the following questions from the reading above.

1. The main character is worried about:
 - A. The youth of England.
 - B. Getting in trouble for fighting with a gentleman.
 - C. Getting rich.
 - D. Going on an errand.
2. What stained the character's trousers?
 - A. Blood.
 - B. Paint.
 - C. Liquid.
 - D. Food.
3. What did the character feel would happen to him?
 - A. His imagination would twist.

- B. Village boys would come after him.
- C. That he would get in trouble for his stained trousers.
- D. That he would get arrested and go to court.

4. When the character says he feels that the “young gentleman's blood was on my head,” he means:

- A. It is his fault that the gentleman was bleeding.
- B. He tripped and cut his head.
- C. He has blood on his head.
- D. The gentleman hurt the character's head.

5. “Incrimsoned countenance” means:

- A. The character was so angry that he saw red.
- B. The gentleman was so angry that he saw red.
- C. The gentleman looked bloody.
- D. The character looked bloody.

Text 2: From *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

About half way between West Egg and New York the motor road hastily joins the railroad and runs beside it for a quarter of a mile, so as to shrink away from a certain desolate area of land. This is a valley of ashes — a fantastic farm where ashes grow like wheat into ridges and hills and grotesque gardens; where ashes take the forms of houses and chimneys and rising smoke and, finally, with a transcendent effort, of men who move dimly and already crumbling through the powdery air. Occasionally a line of gray cars crawls along an invisible track, gives out a ghastly creak, and comes to rest, and immediately the ash-gray men swarm up with leaden spades and stir up an impenetrable cloud, which screens their obscure operations from your sight. But above the gray land and the spasms of bleak dust which drift endlessly over it, you perceive, after a moment, the eyes of Doctor T. J. Eckleburg. The eyes of Doctor T. J. Eckleburg are blue and gigantic — their irises are one yard high.

Choose if the sentence is TRUE (T) or FALSE (F).

- 6. **T F** The area and people described in the text are really made of ashes.
- 7. **T F** “Impenetrable” means unable to see through.

8. **T F** A “motor road” is made for trains.
9. **T F** Doctor T. J. Eckleburg can be found in the valley of the ashes.
10. **T F** We can assume from the text that a “desolate area of land” is a joyless, hopeless, and barren land.

Text 3: From *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck

In the lightless car, Ma stirred, and then she pushed the blanket back and got up. At the open door of the car the gray starlight penetrated a little. Ma walked to the door and stood looking out. The stars were paling in the east. The wind blew softly over the willow thickets, and from the little stream came the quiet talking of the water. Most of the camp was still asleep, but in front of one tent a little fire burned, and people were standing about it, warming themselves. Ma could see them in the light of the new dancing fire as they stood facing the flames, rubbing their hands; and then they turned their backs and held their hands behind them. For a long moment Ma looked out, and she held her hands clasped in front of her. The uneven wind whisked up and passed, and a bite of frost was in the air. Ma shivered and rubbed her hands together. She crept back and fumbled for the matches, beside the lantern. The shade screeched up. She lighted the wick, watched it burn blue for a moment and then put up its yellow, delicately curved ring of light. She carried the lantern to the stove and set it down while she broke the brittle dry willowy twigs into the fire box. In a moment the fire was roaring up the chimney.

Choose the answer that best answers the following questions from the reading above.

11. In the text, “the gray starlight penetrated a little” means:
- A. That the light from the stars helped Ma to see.
 - B. That the light from the fire helped Ma to see.
 - C. That the sun was rising.
 - D. That it would be a cold morning.
12. Put the events in the correct chronological order:
- A. Ma looked outside, woke up, shivered, saw the people around the fire, and lit the lamp.
 - B. Ma woke up, looked outside, saw the people around the fire, lit the stove, and shivered.
 - C. Ma woke up, looked outside, saw the people around the fire, lit the lamp, and lit the stove.

- D. Ma looked outside, woke up, saw the people around the fire, lit the lamp, and lit the stove.

13. In the text, “the quiet talking of the water” refers to:

- A. The noise of Ma waking up.
- B. The noise of the morning.
- C. The sound of the people near the stream.
- D. The sound of the stream.

14. From the text, we can guess:

- A. That it is summer.
- B. That it is almost winter.
- C. That it is evening.
- D. That spring is almost over.

15. All of these statements are true except:

- A. Ma wakes up to a cold morning.
- B. Ma watches the people around the fire for a long time.
- C. Ma does not find the matches.
- D. Ma lights the stove.

STAGE I DISTRICT STUDENTS OLYMPIAD IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Reading Comprehension Test for 11th Form Students

Text 1: From The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

Sixty seconds. That's how long we're required to stand on our metal circles before the sound of a gong releases us. Step off before the minute is up, and land mines blow your legs off. Sixty seconds to take in the ring of tributes all equidistant from the Cornucopia, a giant golden horn shaped like a cone with a curved tail, the mouth of which is at least twenty feet high, spilling over with the things that will give us life here in the arena. Food, containers of water, weapons, medicine, garments, fire starters. Strewn around the Cornucopia are other supplies, their value decreasing the farther they are from the horn. For instance, only a few steps from my feet lies a three-foot square of plastic. Certainly it could be of some use in a downpour. But there in the mouth, I can see a tent pack that would protect from almost any sort of weather. If I had the guts to go in and fight for it against the other twenty-three tributes. Which I have been instructed not to do.

We're on a flat, open stretch of ground. A plain of hard-packed dirt. Behind the tributes across from me, I can see nothing, indicating either a steep downward slope or even a cliff. To my right lies a lake. To my left and back, sparse piney woods. This is where Haymitch would want me to go. Immediately.

I hear his instructions in my head. "Just clear out, put as much distance as you can between yourselves and the others, and find a source of water."

But it's tempting, so tempting, when I see the bounty waiting there before me. And I know that if I don't get it, someone else will. That the Career Tributes who survive the bloodbath will divide up most of these life-sustaining spoils. Something catches my eye. There, resting on a mound of blanket rolls, is a silver sheath of arrows and a bow, already strung, just waiting to be engaged. *That's mine, I think. It's meant for me.*

Choose the answer that best answers the following questions from the reading above.

1. What happens to a person if they step off their metal circle before the gong sounds?
 - a. They get penalized a point.
 - b. They get their legs blown off by landmines.

- c. They get disqualified from the games.
 - d. Nothing will happen to them.
- 2. How much time do players have to take in the ring of tributes?
 - a. 60 seconds
 - b. 1 minute
 - c. 20 seconds
 - d. Both a and b
- 3. The tributes were “equidistant” from the Cornucopia because they were...
 - a. all riding on horses.
 - b. standing at the end of the horizon.
 - c. of equal distance from the Cornucopia.
 - d. of disproportionate distance from the Cornucopia.
- 4. What has the narrator been instructed not to do?
 - a. To fight against the other tributes to gather supplies
 - b. To not fight against the other tributes to gather supplies
 - c. To win the games
 - d. None of the above
- 5. “We’re on a flat, open stretch of ground. A plain of hard-packed dirt.” In this sentence, what does “plain” mean?
 - a. having no pattern or decoration
 - b. a large area of flat land without trees
 - c. easy to see or understand
 - d. a large area full of hills and trees

Text 2: From The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne

Hester Prynne did not now occupy precisely the same position in which we beheld her during the earlier periods of her ignominy. Years had come, and gone. Pearl was now seven years old. Her mother, with the scarlet letter on her breast, glittering in its fantastic embroidery, had long been a familiar object to the townspeople. As is apt to be the case when a person stands out in any prominence before the community, and, at the same time, interferes neither with public nor individual interests and convenience, a species of general regard had ultimately grown up in reference to Hester Prynne. It is to the credit of human nature, that, except where its selfishness

is brought into play, it loves more readily than it hates. Hatred, by a gradual and quiet process, will even be transformed to love, unless the change be impeded by a continually new irritation of the original feeling of hostility. In this matter of Hester Prynne, there was neither irritation nor irksomeness. She never battled with the public, but submitted uncomplainingly to its worst usage; she made no claim upon it, in requital for what she suffered; she did not weigh upon its sympathies. Then, also, the blameless purity of her life, during all these years in which she had been set apart to infamy, was reckoned largely in her favour. With nothing now to lose, in the sight of mankind, and with no hope, and seemingly no wish, of gaining anything, it could only be a genuine regard for virtue that had brought back the poor wanderer to its paths.

Choose if the sentence is TRUE (T) or FALSE (F).

6. T F Pearl is the mother of Hester Prynne.
7. T F The scarlet letter is a birthmark.
8. T F Hester was always submissive to other people.
9. T F The narrator believes that it is more common for people to love than to hate.
10. T F According to the author, hostility can prevent hatred from transforming into love.

Text 3: From *O Pioneers!* By Willa Cather

After dinner Lou and Oscar went to the orchard to pick cherries—neither of them had the patience to grow an orchard of their own--and Annie went down to gossip with Alexandra's kitchen girls while they washed the dishes. She could always find out more about Alexandra's domestic economy from the prattling maids than from Alexandra herself, and what she discovered she used to her own advantage with Lou. On the Divide, farmers' daughters no longer went out into service, so Alexandra got her girls from Sweden, by paying their fare over. They stayed with her until they married, and were replaced by sisters or cousins from the old country.

Alexandra took her three nieces into the flower garden. She was fond of the little girls, especially of Milly, who came to spend a week with her aunt now and then, and read aloud to her from the old books about the house, or listened to stories about the early days on the Divide. While they were walking among the flower beds, a buggy drove up the hill and stopped in front

of the gate. A man got out and stood talking to the driver. The little girls were delighted at the advent of a stranger, someone from very far away, they knew by his clothes, his gloves, and the sharp, pointed cut of his dark beard. The girls fell behind their aunt and peeped out at him from among the castor beans. The stranger came up to the gate and stood holding his hat in his hand, smiling, while Alexandra advanced slowly to meet him. As she approached he spoke in a low, pleasant voice.

Choose the answer that best answers the following questions from the reading above.

11. Why does Annie want to hear the maids' gossip?
 - a. So she can learn something new.
 - b. So she can tell Lou about the maids.
 - c. So she can hear them speak Swedish.
 - d. So she can learn if Alexandra is doing well financially.

12. This story takes place in America. When the speaker says, "so Alexandra got her girls from Sweden, by paying their fare over," a "fare" is:
 - a. The festival near the Divide.
 - b. The cost of a ticket from Sweden to America.
 - c. The amount of money Alexandra will pay her maids.
 - d. Alexandra's domestic economy.

13. All of these statements are true, except:
 - a. Annie went to gossip while Alexandra went to the garden after dinner.
 - b. Annie saw the stranger arrive in the buggy.
 - c. The nieces knew the man in the buggy was a stranger.
 - d. Alexandra's favourite niece is Milly.

14. Choose the correct chronological order of events in the text:
 - a. After dinner, Annie went to gossip with the kitchen girls, Alexandra took her nieces into the garden, a stranger arrived, and then the stranger spoke to Alexandra.
 - b. After dinner, Alexandra took her nieces into the garden, Annie went to gossip with the maids, a stranger spoke to Alexandra, Lou and Oscar picked cherries.
 - c. After dinner, Lou and Oscar went to pick cherries, a stranger arrived, Annie went to gossip with the kitchen girls, and then the stranger spoke to Alexandra.
 - d. After dinner, Lou and Oscar went to pick cherries, Alexandra took her nieces into the garden, a stranger arrived, and Annie went to gossip with the kitchen girls.

15. In the text, "the advent of a stranger" means:
 - a. The time after dinner.

- b. The arrival of a new person.
- c. A stranger who is a man.
- d. The departure of a new person.

STAGE II NATIONAL STUDENTS OLYMPIAD IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Speaking Comprehension Test for 8th Form Students

1. We meet new people throughout our lives, at school, at work, while travelling, etc. A simple hello can be a chance to make new friends.

- What is the first thing you want to know someone when you meet them for the first time?
- What type of characteristics or personality do you like in a friend?
- Where is the best place or setting to meet new people in your opinion and why?

2. Ukraine is a country with a rich culture and history.

- What is one thing you wished more people knew about Ukraine?
- What is your favorite Ukrainian holiday? How do you celebrate that holiday?
- Are you proud to be Ukrainian? Why or why not?

3. Trends in media, music, fashion and style are constantly changing. Teens nowadays seem to be aware and keep up with these trends.

- What is the newest teen fashion or style trend?
- How do teens keep up and stay updated with the latest trends?
- Do you stay up-to-date with the latest trends in fashion, music, technology, etc. and is it important to you? Why or why not?

4. Everyone uses the Internet every day. The Internet can be very useful but can also cause lots of problems in our lives.

- How often do you use the Internet? What for?
- What are some advantages and disadvantages of the Internet?
- How do you think the Internet will be different in the future?

5. Choosing a future profession is one of the most important life decisions anyone can make.

- What profession do you want to have in the future?
- What are the most important characteristics needed for your future profession?
- How should you prepare yourself for your future profession?

6. Technology has changed the way we live and it is always changing.

- What is the best modern invention that we have today?
- How do you think technology will change in the future?

- What are the advantages and disadvantages of the development of technology?

7. English is not everyone's favourite subject in school but most can agree that English is important nowadays.

- How would you explain the importance of studying English?
- What aspects of learning English have you enjoyed the most? Why?
- How would you improve the English lessons at your school?

8. People today get news and learn about current events from different sources.

- How do you get the news?
- Why is it important for people to know what is happening in the world today?
- What are some advantages and disadvantages of looking at information online, on TV, or on your phones?

9. In America, it is said that breakfast is the most important meal of the day.

- What is a typical breakfast for you? Is it healthy or not?
- What meal (breakfast, lunch, or dinner) do you like the most? Why?
- How would you encourage family and friends to make healthy food choices at breakfast, lunch, or dinner?

10. Bullying is a worldwide problem in and outside of schools. It can affect everyone and anyone no matter your age, gender, or social life.

- What is your definition of bullying? Describe different forms of bullying.
- How has bullying affected you or someone you know?
- What can you do to combat and prevent bullying?

11. The relationships with our families are often the most important relationships in our lives.

- Describe the relationship you have with your close family members.
- If you could choose how many brothers or sisters you have at home, how many would you choose? Why?
- What is the happiest memory you have of your family?

12. "Music expresses that which cannot be put into words." This means that music can communicate things that words cannot.

- What can music express better than language?
- How does different music make you feel?
- Do you believe that music is powerful?

13. Some people today like to read about famous celebrities in the news, but being famous has advantages and disadvantages.

- What are some advantages and disadvantages of being famous?
- Are there any celebrities that you admire? Why do you admire them?
- Would you like to be famous? Why or why not?

14. There is a saying, "To have a good friend, you need to be a good friend."

- How can you be a good friend?
- What factors may result in the breakdown of a good friendship?
- What makes friends different from family?

15. The letters BFF mean "Best Friends Forever". It is a sort of promise that two friends will remain friends for the rest of their lives.

- Do you have best friends? What qualities attracted you to those people?
- Do you agree with the idea of a BFF? Can two people be friends forever? Why or why not?
- What life lessons have you learned from your best friendship?

16. Many people think that English will completely dominate all the other languages in the future.

- Do you agree with this? Why or why not?
- Why are you learning English?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of one language dominating all others?

17. Imagine you are lost in the woods.

- What five items would you like to have in your backpack? Why?
- If you could have one other person with you, who would it be and why?
- What is the first thing you would do when you got out of the woods?

18. Some people say, "Money can't buy happiness" but many people think money would solve a lot of their problems. Imagine you win the lottery and receive \$7 million dollars.

- How do you spend the money?
- Do you think having that amount of money would bring you happiness? Why or why not?
- If you were to donate money to charity, what charity would you choose? Why?

19. A time capsule is a box of items like books, photos, or things people collect so people in the future have the opportunity to learn about the past.

- Do you think it would be exciting to find a box containing items from a long time ago? Why?
- If you were to make a time capsule, what items would you include?
- What do you want people in the future to learn about your generation?

20. Personal secrets shared among close friends are a way to bring friends closer. They may also serve to make the relationship become stronger.

- Why do you think it's important to share secrets with friends?
- Have you ever revealed someone's secret when you weren't supposed to? If so, describe this situation.
- If your friend stole something, would you keep it a secret? Why or why not?

STAGE II NATIONAL STUDENTS OLYMPIAD IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Speaking

9th form

1. Leading a healthy lifestyle is important in everyday life. To be healthy is not just to eat and exercise but many other aspects as well.

- What does leading a healthy lifestyle mean to you?
- How do you stay healthy? Are you ever unhealthy? Why?
- Can one be sad and depressed and still lead a healthy life?

2. English speaking countries like the United States, England, Canada, and Australia attract millions of tourists every year.

- What English speaking country would you like to visit? Why?
- What specific attractions would be most appealing to you to see in-person?
- Why do you think people want to visit these countries?

3. Students in schools around the world are told by parents and teachers that learning English is essential to a good education, opportunities, and money.

- Do you believe learning English is important to students in Ukraine? Why?
- Where does your passion for learning and studying English come from?
- What would you change about learning English in Ukraine to make it better?

4. In America, it is said that breakfast is the most important meal of the day.

- What is a typical breakfast for you? Is it healthy or not?
- What meal (breakfast, lunch, or dinner) do you like the most? Why?
- How would you encourage family and friends to make healthy food choices at breakfast, lunch, or dinner?

5. Many people say, “Home is where the heart is”.

- What does this quote mean to you? Do you agree or disagree?
- Does everyone love his or her home? Why or why not?
- Is it possible to be happy and healthy without a home? Explain your answer.

6. Language is an important part of culture. We speak, we think and we dream in our native language(s). Many countries have switched their national languages to English.

- How would you feel if English replaced Ukrainian as your national language? Explain.
- How do you think the rest of Ukraine would react?
- How would your life change if the national language was English?

7. There are many interesting tourist attractions in Ukraine but a tourist from another country is not likely to know where to go to see the best sights.

- What attractions would you recommend to a visitor in Ukraine?
- What cities do you think they should visit and why?
- If a visitor was coming to your city/town/village and you were their tour guide, where would you take them that is off the beaten path?

8. Imagine you can choose a superpower: the ability to fly, super speed, or super strength.

- Which superpower would you choose?
- Why would you choose that power?
- Would you use that power to help others or yourself?

9. Describe the plot of your favorite movie.

- Who are the main characters? What are they like?
- What happens to them?
- Why do you like the movie?

10. Everyone is good at something. Finding and nurturing that skill is one of the healthiest and most rewarding things that a person can do.

- Describe something that you are good at. Did you practice to become good at it?
- How can you work to improve this ability? What motivates you to improve it?
- How have you used this ability?

11. We meet new people throughout our lives, may it be at school, at work, while travelling, etc. A simple hello can open opportunities for new friends.

- When you meet a new person, what do you want to first know about him or her?
- What type of characteristics or personality traits do you like in a friend?
- Where is the best place or setting to meet new people and why?

12. Trends in media, music, fashion and style are constantly changing. Teens nowadays seem to be aware and keep up with these trends.

- What is the newest teen fashion or style trend?
- How do teens stay updated of the latest trends?
- Do you stay up-to-date with the latest trends in fashion, music, technology, etc., and is it important to you? Why or why not?

13. Being a productive member of society means contributing to your community.

Having a job and working to make your community a better place is an excellent way to do so.

- What is your dream job? Describe it in detail.
- Do you think most people love their job? Why or why not? Is it possible to love your work?
- What is your definition of volunteering? Do you consider it work or leisure?

14. Imagine that you could switch lives with one person for a day. It could be anyone you want, anywhere in the world, from any time in history.

- If you could switch lives with one person, who would it be and why?
- How would you live their life differently?
- Who would you like to take over your life for one day?

15. All children are taught to be polite, to say “please” and “thank you”, to ask permission for things, and to greet people they know. These things together are referred to as “manners.”

- What are some other examples of good manners? What are some examples of bad manners in Ukraine?
- Are manners important? How do they differ from place to place?
- What do you think when you see someone with very bad manners? Can you give an example?

16. Bullying is a worldwide problem in and outside of schools. It can affect everyone and anyone no matter your age, gender, social life.

- What is your definition of bullying? Describe different forms of bullying.
- How has bullying affected you or someone you know?
- What can you do to combat and prevent bullying?

17. Smartphones are everywhere now, and they act as more than just telephones.

- How have smart phones changed communication?
- How do people use smartphones? What are the advantages and disadvantages of smartphones?
- How do you think communication will be different 20 years from now?

18. Imagine you are lost in the woods.

- What five things would you like to have in your backpack?
- If you could have one other person with you, who would it be and why?
- What is the first thing you would do when you got out of the woods?

19. Supermarkets are becoming more widespread and popular in the modern world, while traditional markets are becoming less common.

- Where do you (or your family) do most food shopping?
- What advantages and disadvantages do you see with modern supermarkets?
- Do you think that traditional markets will disappear? Why or why not?

20. Many people think that our family greatly influences our personalities.

- Which personality traits do you share with your family?
- What makes you different from other members of your family?
- Which family member has had the greatest impact on you? Explain.

STAGE II NATIONAL STUDENTS OLYMPIAD IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Speaking

10th form

1. **“The best teachers teach from the heart not the book.”**
 - What characteristics do you think make a good teacher?
 - Do you know any good teachers, if so who and why?
 - What advice would you give to your teachers to help them improve?
2. **People are often judged by the way they look and what they wear.**
 - Do you agree with this? Explain.
 - Have you ever been judged by the way that you look? How did that make you feel?
 - Do you think first impressions are important?
3. **34% of Ukrainians between the ages of 15 and 24 have jobs, and even more of them do some work or are looking for work. Jobs and employment are a huge part of life, and as you get older, it is something you must spend some time thinking about.**
 - What kinds of jobs are the most common in your region?
 - What kind of job would you like to have, if you could have any job? Why?
 - What are the opportunities for teenagers to earn extra money in your region?
4. **An English proverb says, “No man is an island.”**
 - What does this mean to you?
 - Do you think that it is important to connect with people?
 - Describe a time when you felt alone. How did you connect with people?
5. **An English proverb says, “The pen is mightier than the sword”**
 - What does this proverb mean to you? Do you agree with it?
 - Do you believe that an idea or a poem or a book can change the world? Why or why not?
 - Describe a time that you used words and ideas to solve a problem instead of violence.
6. **In America, it is considered bad luck to meet a black cat, or to walk under a ladder, good luck to find a penny, and if your ears burn it means someone is talking about you. These are some common superstitions- old beliefs that people still sometimes hold onto.**
 - What are some superstitions in Ukraine? What things are supposed to bring good or bad luck? Are there other superstitions?
 - Where do you think superstitions come from? Do people still believe in them?

- Do you believe in superstitions? Why or why not?

7. Women and men have different roles and responsibility in different cultures and societies.

- What is the role of women and men in your culture? Is this good or bad?
- Is it better to be a man or woman?
- What are some ways women and men are treated differently? Is this right or wrong?

8. Ukraine is more than 25 years old as a country. It is still developing and emerging into the world.

- What do you see for the future of Ukraine?
- What future do you want for Ukraine?
- How can this future be realized?

9. Human beings are social creatures. Making friends and interacting with others is important for our mental health and happiness.

- How do you choose your friends? What characteristics and qualities do you look for in a friend?
- Can you be friends with everyone? Why or why not?
- There are people who prefer and are happy to be alone. Is it truly necessary to have friends to be happy?

10. Some people choose their future career based on the money they will make and not on their passions.

- In the future what career do you want?
- Why would you choose this career?
- In a career, which do you think is more important - money or happiness?

11. Everyone gets older. It is a fact about life. We are born, live and get old.

- Is getting old a bad thing? Are you looking forward to getting older?
- What is your ideal age? Why? What is the worst age? Why?
- How does age affect responsibility, your family, and school or work?

12. Many young people have a role model or a mentor who is not their parent. There are countless examples in history and literature of the power of a mentor on a young person.

- Who do you admire? Why do you admire this person? Are there things you don't like about this person?
- Do you think all young people should have a role model?

- What are the benefits and draw-backs of a mentor?

13. Many people have a personal sense of fashion and style. ‘Dress to express who you are,’ is a common expression.

- Do you think a person’s style shows this person’s character?
- How does your fashion show your character?
- Why do you think people dress in extreme fashions-with body piercings or dyed hair?

14. Zakarpatska oblast is unique in Ukraine for its cultural heritage. On the border of several different nations, it incorporates elements from all these regions into its culture.

- Are there cultural similarities between Zakarpattia and neighboring countries? What are they? Are there any differences?
- Does it make Zakarpattia stronger or weaker to be slightly different from the rest of Ukraine? Why?
- What are aspects of Zakarpattia that are distinctly Ukrainian?

15. Everything has beauty but not everyone can see it” - Confucius

- How do you understand this quote?
- What is your definition of beauty?
- When is the last time you saw beauty, and what was it?

16. Art is everywhere, it is the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the words we speak, art is anything that we create.

- Do you agree with this definition of art? Why?
- What is your definition of art?
- Why do you think art is important in the world?
- **“Music expresses that which cannot be put into words.” This means that music can communicate things that words cannot.**
 - What is something you think music can express that language cannot?
 - How does different music make you feel?
 - Do you believe that music is powerful?

17. Define the word “leadership”.

- What characteristics make a good leader?
- Describe a time you have been in a position of leadership

- Who is someone you think is a great leader? Why?

18. The world is getting smaller every day. Countries and people from all over the world are staying connected through technology.

- Do you agree with the statement? If so, why?
- Is technology always a good thing?
- What is the outcome of the world connecting together?

19. We all have grown up in some kind of family but people define “family” in different ways. What is your definition of a family?

- Can the definition of “family” change with time?
- Is it possible to have more than one family? How?
- What influences the perception of family change?

STAGE II NATIONAL STUDENTS OLYMPIAD IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Speaking

11th form

1. Define the word “leadership”.

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- Describe a time you have been in a position of leadership
- Who is someone you think is a great leader? Why?

2. Some people choose their future career based on the money they will make and not on their passions.

- In the future what career do you want?
- Why would you choose this career?
- In a career, which do you think is more important - money or happiness?

3. In America, it is considered bad luck to meet a black cat, or to walk under a ladder, good luck to find a penny, and if your ears burn it means someone is talking about you. These are some common superstitions- old beliefs that people still sometimes hold onto.

- What are some superstitions in Ukraine? What things are supposed to bring good or bad luck? Are there other superstitions?
- Where do you think superstitions come from? Do people still believe in them?
- Do you believe in superstitions? Why or why not?

4. Urbanization is the process of people moving into the city, causing it to grow and expand. Cities all over the world are getting bigger and more crowded.

- Do you think it is better to live in the city or in the country? Why?
- Is it a good thing for so many people to move into the city? What are some positive or negative effects?
- If you could live in any place, in any city or any country, where would you live? Why?

5. The relationships with our families are often the most important relationships in our lives.

- Describe your relations with your close family members.
- If you could choose how many brothers or sisters you have at home, how many would you choose? Why?
- What is the happiest memory you have of your family?

- 6. The American President John F. Kennedy once said, “Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.”**
- What does this quote mean to you?
 - Do you think you have a responsibility to your country? Does your country have a responsibility to you?
 - How can your generation change the country for the better? Is it possible?
- 7. An English proverb says, “The early bird gets the worm.”**
- What does this mean to you?
 - Describe a time when you benefitted by being the first person.
 - Would you describe yourself as an “early bird”? Why or why not?
- 8. Several years ago, the mayor of New York City made it illegal to sell soda larger than a certain size. The people of New York were very angry about this.**
- Why do you think he made this law? What problem might he have been fighting?
 - Why do you think the people became so angry over a law about soda?
 - Do you think that it is right for the government to tell people what they can and can't do with their own bodies?
- 9. Young people look up to teachers, family members and celebrities as role models.**
- Do young people today need good role models?
 - Who do you think is a good role model for young people in your country and why?
 - What qualities make a good role model?
- 10. The internet has made it easier than ever to find people with similar interests and hobbies. Many of these people have formed into groups called subcultures, with their own unique culture and philosophy. Some examples include, goth, emo, punk, cosplayers, gamers, hipster, steampunk, etc.**
- Describe one subculture that you know of. How do they look? Act? What are they interested in?
 - Is there any subculture that you are interested in knowing more about or joining?
 - Do you think that subcultures are a good thing or a bad thing? Why?
- 11. School is intended to prepare students for their future.**
- What do you think is the best way to prepare children for life?
 - How do you think school has prepared you for the future?
 - What changes would you introduce to school curriculum to better prepare students for their future?

12. Some people define *wealth* in money and material possessions, others in health and family, and still others in experiences and memories.

- Why should people measure wealth in different ways? What are the benefits?
- How do you personally measure your wealth?
- What are some of the negatives of how you measure your wealth?

13. Often people have misconceptions and presuppositions about a country and its people before they travel there. What stereotypes do you think foreigners have about Ukraine?

- What stereotypes do you feel are particularly harmful for the Ukrainian people?
- What can you do to change these stereotypes?
- What implications can stereotypes have on the people of a certain culture?
Positive or negative.

14. It is a fact known by everyone that advertisers use attractive actors and models in their commercials to help sell products.

- Why do you think advertisers invite attractive celebrities to sell their product?
- Have you ever purchased something because of an advertisement you saw?
- If you were the owner of a company, who would invite to sell your product and why?

15. “Knowledge is power” is a popular saying in English.

- Why do you think it is commonly used?
- In what situations would knowledge be powerful?
- Have you ever felt powerless or lost?

16. In Harry Potter, Dumbledore, his headmaster, says to Harry, “It is our choices, Harry, that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities.”

- What does this quote mean?
- Describe a time where you had to make a difficult choice.
- Do you think our choices show who we are more than our abilities? Why?

17. Sometimes life can be very stressful. Nowadays, people have a lot of stress at home, at work, or at school from various sources.

- What makes you stressed? Where does it come from?
- How do you cope with stress?
- What are some other ways people deal with stress?

18. Films play an important role in any society.

- How influential do you think films are on young people's behaviour?
- Do you think that films should be censored or controlled? Why/Why not?
- What influential film is worth watching? Why?

19. Ukraine is seeing an increase in immigrants and refugees. One can find students from Nigeria and families from Afghanistan living in Ukraine.

- What do you think of immigration to Ukraine? How are immigrants usually treated in Ukraine? Why is it the case?
- Do you think immigrants contribute in a positive or negative way?
- Is there a link between immigration and societal problems?

20. Today, English is the second most widely-spoken language with one out of every five people on the planet able to speak at least some.

- Why is English becoming an international language? Is English affecting cultures and the development of culture? If so, in what ways?
- What do you think the future of the English language will be?
- Do you think countries are sacrificing their culture or language for English? What will be the consequences of this?